



Icknield Community College

Public Consultation: Proposed change of Age Range to include a Sixth Form

June 2014

Icknield Community College

Alteration of Upper Age Limit to establish Post-16 Education

Purpose of the Consultation

This informal consultation is about a proposal by the Governing Body of Icknield Community College to extend the age range of the school from its current 11-16 status to include post-16 students. This will enable the school to offer full educational opportunities for the 11-19 age range.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are a number of reasons for the proposed change which should benefit both the students and wider community of Icknield Community College.

1. Destinations of existing students when they leave us at age 16

The destination of students moving to post-16 provision last year is shown in Appendix 1. Students at Icknield Community College have always had to travel to other centres to continue their education. There is a lack of local provision. The distances to the nearest post-16 centres from Watlington are:

+ Wallingford 9 miles

+ Henley 11 miles

+ Lord Williams's, Thame 12 miles

+ Oxford 21 miles

We believe that the students are disadvantaged by this arrangement. Through an absence of immediate local choice for their post-16 education, families are forced to face significant, and growing, transport costs. Some students suffer from long, early morning journeys impacting on their quality of life. Furthermore, there are also significant environmental costs resulting from these extra journeys.

The data also shows that no single provider meets all the needs of students leaving us at age 16 who largely go on to study A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses. Icknield Community College wants to develop a range of academic courses which meet the needs of many Icknield students, and complement courses in more distant centres.

2. Continuity of education

For a variety of reasons, some students will always elect to move on at age 16 and find alternative provision elsewhere. However, given the choice, many would opt for continuity of education. We believe that students at Icknield Community College are unfairly disadvantaged by being forced to have another transition in their education. By virtue of

spending five years at the school, the teachers know the students' strengths and weaknesses, their preferred learning styles and their motivations. They learn how to collaborate effectively with the students in order to meet their educational needs. Continuity with these teachers will enable more rapid progress in post-16 education.

3. Positive impact upon our College and the wider community

The value of including older students at Icknield Community College would provide a positive influence on younger students, offering encouragement and guidance that would otherwise be absent. Observing sixth form students in the exciting process of university applications can only add to the aspirations of the younger students in the school. With significant improvements taking place at the school recently, we believe that we are well placed to inspire and encourage our students to progress even further in their own school community beyond the age of 16, a view shared by the School Improvement Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Post-16 provision at Icknield Community College would also provide a positive educational, social and economic advantage to Watlington and its surrounding villages. Watlington is a growing community with new homes scheduled to be built during the next 5 years complementing a demographic upturn in young people. Our conversations with prospective parents tell us that there is a clear need for us to develop our provision in this way. It will help Icknield Community College to become a more cohesive, integrated community without the cost and disadvantages of students having to travel elsewhere.

4. Creating Capacity and providing resources

Icknield Community College has sufficient capacity to accommodate the phased development of post-16 provision over a three year period. Having analysed the spaces available in the school, we have the existing building capacity to offer sixth form teaching, alongside study areas and common room spaces, in addition to providing for 11-16 education.

We are confident that we have the expertise to deliver post-16 provision with many of our new staff recruited over the past two years coming from 11-18 settings. The majority of the teaching staff in post in September 2014 will have taught post-16 academic courses within the last five years. With two new appointments, we believe that we can offer a full range of A-Level courses to meet the needs of our students in September 2015. These appointments would be funded by the income generated by the increase in student roll at the school.

We feel, through conversations with many of our stakeholders, that our community needs an academic sixth form offering courses that will enable students to progress to highest achieving Russell Group universities. Those Russell Group universities prioritise A-Levels in the 'facilitating subjects' when considering applications. These subjects are emboldened in the table below. However, whilst it is essential that we promote the importance of these qualifications, we also believe that students should consider a broader range of subjects. At this stage, just over a year in advance, we expect to have the expertise and capacity to offer, depending on the number of students opting for them, the following A-Level courses:

Maths	French	Physical Education
Further Maths	Spanish	Art
English Literature	Biology	Computing
English language	Physics	Music
Geography	Chemistry	Design Technology
History	Philosophy & Ethics	Economics / Business Studies
Psychology	Sociology	

However, with many strengths in our teaching staff, we would be willing to consider the provision of other A-Level courses if demand existed.

We are currently a small 11-16 school that knows its students well and offers a personalised provision that meets the needs of its students. We plan to extend those principles into our new sixth form, offering relatively small class A-Level class sizes and the flexibility to map the curriculum to meet the students' needs. We have already opened discussions to work alongside local stakeholders to offer a rich extra-curricular enrichment programme and extended enrichment opportunities (including, for example, Duke of Edinburgh Gold and a Full World Challenge Expedition), and with local universities to prepare our students for their all-important UCAS applications.

What is the procedure for changing the age limit of the school?

Changing the age limit of a school is a legal process. Firstly there is a requirement to take into account the views of interested parties through this informal consultation. The individuals and organisations that we are required to consult with or are specifically inviting to comment on the proposal are listed at the end of this document. The proposer (in this case the Governing Body) must then consider responses to the consultation and consider any alternative options. The next stage is to publish the Statutory Notice which must be in a prescribed format to meet legal requirements. Following the publication there is a period of four weeks for any comments or objections to be lodged. *Objections raised during the initial consultation will not necessarily be taken into account unless they are resubmitted after publication of the Statutory Notice.*

The Local Authority (Oxfordshire County Council) must make a decision on whether to approve the proposal within two months of the end of the Statutory Notice Period or the decision will be passed immediately to the Schools Adjudicator.

What happens next?

This initial consultation will end on 4th July 2014. The Governing Body of the school will review the responses and carefully consider **all** feedback, both for and against the proposal, and any alternative options presented. It will then decide whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice. If the decision is to go ahead, the statutory consultation period of four weeks will follow the publication date. The Notice will be displayed at the school entrance and published in the local paper and on the Oxfordshire County Council website. *You will not receive any further information at this stage so if you wish to object you must look out for the notice in the local press.* During this four week period objections or comments on the proposal could be submitted as described in the Notice.

If the proposal is approved, the Governing Body would implement a Post-16 Development Plan to ensure that funding and appropriate accommodation is available and high quality teaching staff are in post for all subject areas.

How to respond

We want to hear views from as many of you as possible, whether you are for or against the proposal. It would be a great help to the Governors if you could also state briefly the reason for your support or opposition to the development of Post-16 courses at Icknield Community College. We also need to know your status e.g. if you are replying as an individual please state whether you are a parent of a pupil at Icknield Community College (or another local school / college), member of the local community, Parish Councillor etc. **If you are replying on behalf of an organisation we require the name and contact details of that organisation.**

Please send written responses to arrive by **7th July 2014** in any of the following ways:

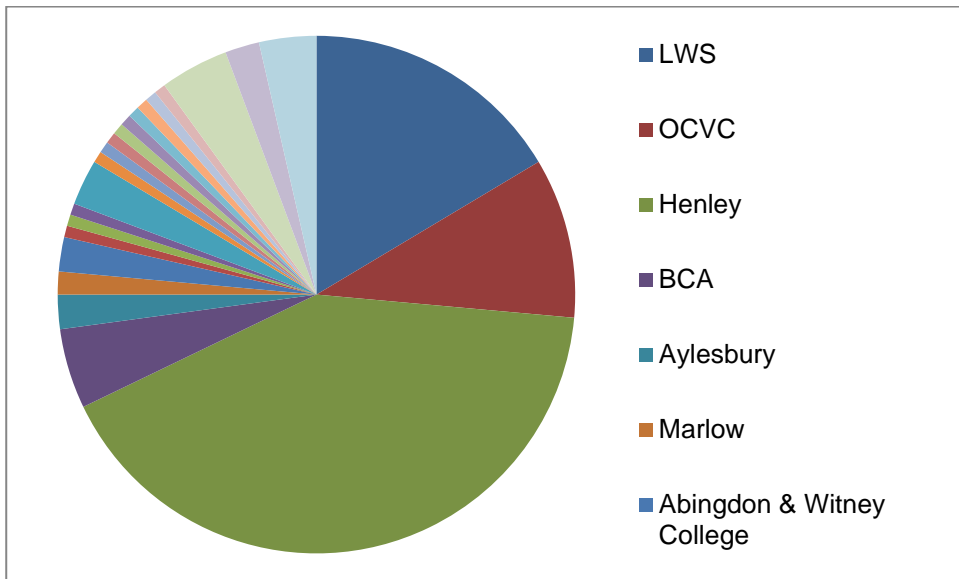
Email: sixthform@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Online: using a feedback form at:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/IcknieldCC>

Post: Lisa Best, Icknield Community College, Love Lane, Watlington, Oxfordshire. OX49 5RB.

Appendix 1: Destinations Data 2013



Institution	Number of Students
Lord Williams's	23
OCVC	14
Henley	58
BCA	7
Aylesbury	3
Marlow	2
Abingdon & Witney College	3
Wycombe College	1
Guildford	1
Oxpens, Oxford	1
Amersham & Wycombe	4
Fish Management Sparsholt	1
Trowbridge College Wiltshire	1
Queen Mary's	1
Bisham Abbey Academy	1
Wellbeck Army College	1
Wallingford	1
Employment	1
South Devon College	1
South Essex College	1
Other	6
No Longer on Role	3
No Contact	5

Appendix 2: Anticipated Student Numbers (based on OCC Pupil Place Plan)

Roll	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
11-16	615	630	656	665	695
16-19	0	35	80	90	90
Total	615	665	736	755	785